

No. 9342	號三十四百三千九第	日三十月十年三十緒光	HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 1887.	三拜禮	號四十月二十年十英港香	PRICE \$24 PER MONTH
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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

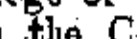


GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

TENDERS will be received at this Office until Noon of **TUESDAY**, the 20th inst. for the sole privilege of **SLAUGHTERING CATTLE** within the Colony for 12 months commencing on the 1st January, 1888. For further particulars apply at this Office. By Command.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. 246



GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

TENDERS will be received at this Office until Noon of **TUESDAY**, the 20th inst. for the privilege of **grazing the several groups of QUARRIES** (separately or conjointly) within the Colony for 12 months commencing on the 1st January, 1888. For further particulars apply at this Office. By Command.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. 247

MONOPOLY, for the year 1898.
Form of Tender and further particulars may
be obtained at this Office.

By Command,
FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. [24]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instruction
to Sell by Public Auction,
ON MONDAY, 18th DECEMBER,
the 15th December, 1887, at Noon, at the
Sales Rooms, Queens' Road,
SUNDRY JEWELLERY and SILVER
belonging to the Estate of late Mrs. MARONIS
ARAB.
(Comprising:—
GOLD WATCHES, CHAINS, LOCKETS,
NECKLACES, BROOCHES, RINGS,
BROOCHES, EARRINGS & PENDANTS,
PEARL NECKLACE, AMBER BRAC-
LETS, and GOLD COINS.
SUNDRY SILVER WARE.
s. &c.
TERMS of SALE.—As Custodian.
J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. [24]

CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP
LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S. S. "PARTHA".
FROM VANCOUVER, YOKOHAMA,
AND KOBE.

THE above steamer having arrived, Consignees of cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for counterbalancing and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 12th December 1887. [85]

THE CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP
COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA VIA AMOY.
The Company's Steamship

above Port TO-MORROW, the 14th instant
at FOUR P.M. instead of as previously notified
For Freight or Passage, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.,
General Managers,
Hongkong, 14th December 1887. [243]

CHINA NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Company's Steamship
"SOOCHOW,"
J. B. Harris, Commander, will be dispatched
as above on **SATURDAY**, the 17th instant
at **FOUR P.M.**
For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.
Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. 124

**NETHERLANDS INDIA STEAM NAVI-
GATION COMPANY.**
FOR SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
SAMARANG, AND SOERABAYA.

THE Company's Steamship
"CELEBEES,"
Captain Joon, will be dispatched as above
or about the 19th instant.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
**JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Agents.**

FOR SINGAPORE, HAYRE, AND
HAMBURG, VIA SUEZ CANAL.
(Taking Cargo at through rates to ANTWERP,
AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, LONDON,
LIVERPOOL, and BREMEN.)

THE Steamship
"FRIGGA."
Captain F. Nagel, will be despatched for the
above Ports on **THURSDAY**, the 22nd inst.
at **TEN A.M.**
For Freight or Passage, apply to
SIEMSEN & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. [24]

FOR HAYRE AND LONDON.
THE A I French Barque
"MARIANNE."
E. Vialla, Master, will load here for the above
Ports, and will have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
CARLOWITZ & CO.
Hongkong, 14th December, 1887. [24]

REBATE HOLIDAYS.
THE Undermentioned Banks will be Closed
 for the Transaction of Public Business
 Noon, TO-MORROW, and FRIDAY, 21st
 15th and 16th instant.
FOR THE CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK
 INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA,
R. L. SYMES,
 Manager, Hongkong.
FOR THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA,
 AND CHINA,
T. H. WHITEHEAD,
 Manager, Hongkong.
FOR THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
 CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
 Chief Manager.
FOR THE COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTES DE PARIS,

Acting Agent.
FOR THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.
LIMITED.
E. W. BUTTER,
Manager, Hongkong,
Hongkong, 13th December, 1897. 2

A FONG, PHOTOGRAPHY.
Has just added to his COLLECTION
OF VIEWS some NEW SCENES and Pho-
tos of NATIVE TYPES, copies of which are obtain-
able in his Studio, at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S
TROY BUILDINGS, and of the highest Quality
of EXCELLENT and High Finish. PERMANENT
ENTAILMENTS OF PHOTOS, and VIEWS
representations of the same on Paper, Canvas,
Oiled.
INSTANTANEOUS VIEWS, GROUPS and POR-
TRAITS are taken in any state of the weather,
and all Permanent Processes, are executed in
Moderate Terms.

STUDIO—ICE HOUSE LANE.

VICTORIA REGATTA.

THIRTY-SECOND MEETING.

TO-MORROW & FRIDAY.
15th and 16th December, 1887.HIS EXCELLENCY SIR G. WILLIAM DES
VUEUX, K.C.M.G.VICE-PATRON,
HIS EXCELLENCY ADMIRAL SIR R. VESEY
HAMILTON, K.C.B., R.N.
HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL
CAMERON, C.B.
COMMODORE MAXWELL, R.N.STEWARDS:
Col. ANDERSON, R.N.
Hampshire Regatta
H. B. BELL, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq.
D. GILLES, Esq.
H. HOPKINS, Esq.
T. JACKSON, Esq.
N. G. MITCHELL, Esq.
J. INNES, Esq.HONORABLE A. P. MACLEOD, Chairman.
A. DAWSON, Esq.
Major H. B. BELL, Esq.
Major F. M. CAMERON, Esq.
Major G. R. GILLES, Esq.
Major J. INNES, Esq.HON. SECRETARY,
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INTIMATIONS.

S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONERY.

JUST RECEIVED.

CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, CHOCO-

LATE CREAMS, BURNED ALMONDS,

AND

SUNDRY SWEETS,

ROSE WATER & OTHER CRACKERS

IN GREAT VARIETY.

NEW SEASON'S

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CARDS,

CHROMOS OF SWISS AND HOME

SCENERY.

SUITABLE FOR FRAMING.

NEW ILLUSTRATED PHOTOGRAPHIC

ALBUMS.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 13th December, 1887.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on editorial matters should be

addressed to "The Editor," and on business "The

Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names

and address with communications addressed to the

Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good

faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one

side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions will be continued until

ordered for a fixed period will be continued until

solicited.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be

sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 14th, 1887.

THE INQUEST relative to the deaths of the

four persons who lost their lives at the

fire at WHITLEY'S, which had been ad-

judged to allow of efforts being made to

secure evidence as to the origin of the fire,

has resulted in a verdict to the effect that

"although there was not sufficient evidence to

show how the fire originated, yet the jury

were of opinion that it was the work of an

incendiary or incendiaries." To this verdict

they appended the following rider:—"First,

that the present state of the law in regard

to fires is most unsatisfactory, inasmuch as

it would have allowed the fire at Mr. Wain-

er's premises to have passed without any

official inquiry but for the deaths resulting

therefrom. Secondly, that provision should

be made by law for an official inquiry into

the origin and circumstances of all fires.

Thirdly, that such an inquiry would tend to

diminish the frequency of fires, by making

felony more easy of detection and by bring-

ing public censure, if not punishment, on

persons responsible for fires arising from

carelessness or want of precaution. Fourth-

ly, that the information and statistics which

would result from fire inquiries would ex-

pose faulty and inferior work and thus lead

to improvements in building constructions.

Fifthly, that the serious danger which may

result from unsanitary constructions, where

attention, with a view to such an amend-

ment in the Building Act as will secure the

requisite supervision." A strong opinion

has grown up in this Colony in favour

of fire inquiries, and we trust the Gov-

ernment will no longer delay the intro-

duction of the necessary legislation. The

reasons in favour of such inquiries are ex-

plicitly set forth in the rider to the verdict

given above, and have been repeatedly urged.

Although the inquest in WHITLEY'S case

did not bring to light the origin of the fire,

it incidentally illustrated the advantages

that would attend fire inquiries. The deaths

of the victims were caused by the fall of a

wall, and scientific evidence was called as to

the construction of the building. The

opinion of two witnesses was that the ex-

pansion of the iron girders caused considerable

outward thrust upon the walls, and as the de-

sign of the girders were not absolutely free,

the expansion must have tended to push the

walls over. Three other witnesses dissem-

bled on this opinion, and ascribed the fall of

the walls to the weakening of the brickwork

by the action of the fire, while Captain Sney

said in his experience he had found that the

expansion and contraction had to do

with the question of the falling of the walls

very materially. One of the reasons urged

by the jury why fire inquiries should be held

was that they would bring to light faulty

principles of construction, and lead to their

improvement. This reason applies with

special force to Hongkong, where the great

majority of Chinese houses are built by

native contractors without any European

supervision beyond that of the Inspector of

Buildings, whose duty is of course confined

to seeing that the conditions of the law with

reference to buildings are complied with.

Fire inquiries might possibly lead to

the detection of defects in the law, and

might bring to light dangers hitherto

unsuspected. The inquest on the vic-

tims of the fire in Pound-lane resulted in

the discovery of the origin of the fire, which

was a very peculiar one, namely, that a rat

ran away with the burning wick of an open

oil lamp, and so communicated the flame to

the partition. These lamps are very com-

monly used by Chinese, and other fires, whose

origin has never been discovered, may have

been due to the same cause as the one in

Pound-lane. The inquest certainly showed

that there was a danger attending the

use of these lamps which few people

would have imagined, and which it was

of decided importance to bring to light.

But if there had been no death in

connection with the fire in question there

would have been no inquest, and the origin

of the fire would in all probability never have

been brought to public notice. It is not

likely that the Chinese will abandon the use

of lamps of this description, but the making

known of an unsuspected danger attending

their use must be regarded as a decided ad-

vantage. Fire inquiries would direct public

attention to the relative safety of other kinds

of lamps—a very important consideration

in a large city where the illuminant is

the great majority of houses is kerosene.

Where gas is used the danger of fire is much

smaller, but the greater cheapness of kero-

sene will always give it an advantage in the

eyes of the bulk of the consumers. Even

in England, where the price of gas has been

